(c) and (d) Since Non-formal pre-school education for children in the age group of 3-6 years is one of the components of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme of this Department, it has been decided to phase out the Early Childhood Education Programme to avoid duplication with the ICDS.

Train service between Bhubaneswar- Kanya Kumari and Bhubaneswar- Howrah

1642. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to introduce train service between Bhubaneswar and Kanya Kumari;

(b) whether a demand has also been made by Government of Orissa to introduce one train in the morning between Bhubaneswar and Howrah in view of the rush in all the Howrah-bound trains; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to consider these two demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 11 pairs of Mail/Express trains are by and large adequately catering to the traffic offering between Bhubaneswar and Howrah. Introduction of a train between Bhubaneswar to Howrah/Kanya Kumari is presently not feasible due to operational and resource constraints. However, the Kanya Kumari bound passengers of Bhubaneswar can avail of changeover at Chennai.

University Education in Andhra Pradesh

1643. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has examined the need for more University education in States like Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when was this study done;

(c) whether this study was ever discussed in appropriate forum; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

University Education in Rural Areas

1644. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any concrete programme to meet the requirement of University education for rural people;

(b) whether Government are aware of the need for University education for more people in rural areas; and

(c) the alternatives or avenues Government are examining to make university education available over a wider rural area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) Government is aware and conscious of the need of higher education for people in rural areas. The policy relating to extension of Distance Education System, both through open and conventional universities; setting up of a National Council of Rural Institutes; and provision of non-collegiate educational system are the initiatives introduced to meet the aspirations of all to receive tertiary education.

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, ऋषिकेश में अनियमितताएं

1645. श्री शिव चरण सिंह: क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, ऋषिकेश में पिछले सत्र के दौरान प्रवेश में की गई कई अनियमितताओं संबंधी अनेक आरोप ध्यान में लाए गये हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या कोई प्राथमिक तथ्यान्वेषी जांच की गई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या इसके लिये उत्तरदायी पाये गये प्रधानाचार्य के विरूद्ध कोई कार्यवाही की गई है; और